





The TOWN and COUNTRY
NUT-CRACKER,
OR
JACK SHARP'S JESTS.

BEING A COLLECTION OF

Funny Jokes,
Merry Stories,
Droll Adventures,
Frolicksome Tales,
Witty Quibbles,



Youthful Pranks,
Smart Repartees,
Double Entendres,
Ridiculous Bulls,
Wife Sayings, &c. &c.

That was ever offered to the Public in this Kingdom.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

A choice Collection of Conundrums, Clever Epigrams,
Amorous Poems, Humorous Epitaphs, Facetious Dia-
logues, Catches, Glees, &c. of the several shining Lu-
minaries of the present Age.

L O N D O N.

Printed and sold by T. SABINE, No. 81, *Stee Lane*

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

ASTOR LENOX AND TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

100 N. 5TH ST. NEW YORK, N.Y.

Acquired from the
Library of the
New York Public Library
at the sale of the
Library of the
New York Public Library

at the sale of the
Library of the
New York Public Library

Acquired from the
Library of the
New York Public Library
at the sale of the
Library of the
New York Public Library

100 N. 5TH ST. NEW YORK, N.Y.

J E S T S, &c!

AT a tavern meeting Ben Johnson, finding himself much intoxicated, slipped from the company, and reeled home to bed; next meeting one of the party, who reproached him with going away without taking leave of his companions; says he, Indeed you ought to excuse me, for if I did not take leave of the company, I staid till I had entirely taken leave of myself.

A young rake saying, in public company, that he remembered every thing he lent, but nothing he borrowed: Why then sir, said Tom Brown, it may be very justly said that you have lost half your memory.

Rocheſter condoling one day with an Irish gentleman, whose father had lately died well; says Paddy, It does not signify grieving, for it's what we must all come to, if we do but live long enough.

A gentleman saying he was promised the lease of the next house that fell, Sir, says a neighbour, had it been my case, I should rather have desired the lease of a house that stood.

A young lady, who being lately married, on seeing her husband going to rise pretty early in the morning, said, What, my dear, are you getting up already? 'pray lie a little longer and rest yourself. No, my dear, I'll get up and rest myself.

A gentleman speaking of Kitty Fisher, the famous courtesan, who had always abundance of fine cloaths, said she was like a squirrel, for she covered her back with her tail.

In King George the Second's time Lord E—— married three wives, who were all his servants; a beggar woman meeting him one day in the street, made him a very low curtsy; Ah! God Almighty bless you, said she, and send you a long life; if you do but live long enough I may be Lady E——.

A lady of quality being at supper (the Monday night before Shrove Tuesday) where Lord Rochester was present, it having struck twelve o'clock, Well, says she, it is now Shrove Tuesday; come, gentlemen, set up your cocks, and I will knock them down. True, replied Rochester, there is none that disputes your ladyship's abilities.

A country gentleman once telling Jack Smart he was surprised there was so many pick-pockets in London, seeing there was a watch at every corner, Pho, replies Jack, they are as glad of a watch as any thing else.

A wild young nobleman being in company with Daniel Purcel, desired leave to toast the d——. With all my heart, replied Purcel, I have no objection to any of your lordship's friends.

A gentleman being choaked with a honey-comb, his friends began to bemoan him. Why make you so much lamentation? said a neighbour, never man had a sweeter death.

Two Irishmen coming to London from St. Albans, one of them asked a man that was at work by the side of a road, how many miles it was to London; to which he replied, Twenty. One of the Irishman said, We shall not reach London to night. Pho, says the other, come along, it is but ten miles a piece.

Joe Miller being at church when the parson preached most of his auditors out of the church, said he made a very moving sermon.

NUT-CRACKER.

Some ladies walking in a meadow a few miles from London, they met a shepherd, with a young kid in his arms: one of them stroked and admired it, and asked the reason it had no horns; the shepherd vexed at being detained, answered, Because it is not married.

Foot and Quin conversing on death, the latter told the former, that were they to die at the same time, he should, according to the strength of genius, out-star him, and get to Heaven first: I am rather of opinion, says Foot, that I should gain the ascendant of you, for, by G—d, you are too heavy to mount.

One morning the noted Monf. De Vergy, the novel writer, intended to breakfast with a bookseller, in Pater-Noster-Row, one of his employers; and, to be certain whether they had breakfasted before he arrived, he addressed the bookseller's wife thus—Me l'ope, ma'am, you be extreme well, and hope you have got your prick-fast in your belly this morning.

A gentleman having received some abuse in passing through one of the Inns of Chancery, from some of the impudent clerks, he was advised to complain to the principal; which he accordingly did, and coming before him, accosted him in the following manner—I have been very grossly abused here by some of the rascals of this house, and understanding you are the principal, I am come to acquaint you with it.

One of the commissioners of the revenue, in Ireland, being one night in the pit, at the playhouse in Dublin, Monocca Gaul, the orange girl, famous for her wit and assurance, striding over his back, he popped his hand under her petticoats, Nay, Commissioner, said she, you'll find no goods there but what has been fairly entered.

At the Grosvenor trial in Westminster Hall, a witness being produced that had an enamelled nose, Counsellor Dunning thinking to daunt him, said, Now you are sworn, what can you say, with your copper nose? The man replied, Why, by the oath I have sworn, I would not change my copper nose for your brazen face.

The

The present Bishop of D——m has a slovenly custom of keeping one of his hands in his breeches; and being one time to bring a bill into the house of lords, relating to a provision for clergymen's widows, he came with the papers in one hand, and the other, as usual, in his breeches; and beginning to speak: I have something in my hand, my lords, said he, for the benefit of the widows of the clergy. Upon which the Earl of Chesterfield, immediately interrupting him, said, In which hand, my lord?

A Scotch member of parliament, of great wit and humour, coming to the Marquis of Rockingham one morning, at the time of the great opposition between him and Lord North, told his lordship that he had some very bad news to acquaint him with. What's the matter? quoth the marquis. Be me troth, quoth he, what I hae to tell you is very bawd on our feed. Prithce, says the marquis, don't keep me any longer in suspense; what is it? Don't your lordship ken that Sawney Wedderburn is bought over? That's impossible, says the marquis; for a stauncher man does not live than honest Sawney. But what makes you think so? Why, and please your lordship, I saw the other morning a five hundred pound Bank note in his hand; and I am sure Sawney never brought that out of his own country.

A gentleman nigh a stand of coaches, crowded with spectators, in Holborn, when the criminals were passing to Tyburn, observed to his friend, What a deal of business was at a stand to-day.

A great person once near losing his place, but through intercession of his wife secured it, on which Joe Miller said, He had tumbled head long to the devil, but luckily prevented it by saving himself upon his horns.

Alderman T——se——d one day seeing his footman with an old greasy hat, slouching over his shoulders, Sirrah, says he, who gave you that cuckold's hat? Indeed, Sir, says John, it was my mistress gave it me; and told me it was one of your's.

A gentleman riding through part of Wales, seeing some goats upon the mountains, and meeting with a Welchman at
the

the same time, thinking to put a trick upon him, asked him what countryman they were? Why, truly, hur thinks them to be Welchmen by their beards; but her is sure they be Englishmen by their horns.

Lord T—m—ple asked a clergyman once, at the bottom of his table, why the goose, if there was one, was always placed next to the parson? Really, said he, I can give no reason for it; but your question is so odd, that I shall never see a goose for the future without thinking of your lordship.

An amorous young fellow, who designed a favour to his neighbour's wife, the chamber maid came running in, and told him her master was at the door. S'death, said the lover, can't I get out at the parlour window? No, no, replied the girl, there are some iron bars; but if you will run up three pair of stairs, you may jump out of the garret window easy enough.

The late Duke of York asking a young lady, one day, what it was o'clock, she told him her watch stood. I don't wonder at that, madam, replied his highness, when it is so near, What do you call it.

A gentleman and his man riding into the country, they met a fellow astride upon a cow; the man calls out to his master, Oh! Sir, says he, what a strange sight there is; a fellow is a horseback upon a cow. That's a bull, said the gentleman. Nay, sir, said the man, it is not a bull; I know it is a cow by it's teats.

One asked another the reason of his wearing his stockings the wrong side outwards; the other told him, Because there was a hole on the other side.

A fellow that was notoriously known to have been in an insurrection, was brought before Justice W——. Sirrah, says the justice, you shall be hanged if the law will do it; you are a notorious rogue; I remember you ever since the last resurrection.

An Irish fellow vaunting of his birth and family, affirmed, that when he came first to England, he cut such a figure, that the

the bells were rung through every town he passed to London. Ah! says Tom Brown, who happened to hear him, I suppose that was because you came up in waggon, with a bell team.

A popish priest and Dr. Monto being discoursing together about their professions, the priest told the doctor the earth was very charitable to the faculty, for that it covered a multitude of their sins. That may be, replied the doctor; but hell won't be so charitable to the clergy in discovering a great many more of their's.

A gentleman meeting his godson, asked him whither he was going? To school, replies the boy. That's well, said he, there is six-pence; ~~follow~~ thy learning apace, I may live to hear thee preach my funeral sermon.

A nobleman of Lord Chancellor C——t's acquaintance, having observed to his lordship, that as he had the best head in England, he was surprized that his children had not stronger marks of genius, was answered by his lordship, that there seemed to him nothing surprising in it, for that he did beget them with his head.

The Earl of Chesterfield, who is, perhaps, the severest satyrist in Europe, was waited upon by a gentleman of his acquaintance, and complimented on the report that his lordship was a second time promoted to the lieutenancy of Ireland. The earl, who, to the grief of his friends, as well as his own great misfortune, has almost entirely lost his hearing, replied, with a smile, that he knew not of such promotion, but did, indeed, think himself more fit for that employment now than formerly, because he could hear none of the people's complaints.

A scoffing gallant walking in the fields, overtook a milk-maid going a milking, bare-legged, as in the country some used to go, and thus saluted her: Fair maid, how long have you worn those stockings? Sir, answered she, these stockings, and a pair of breeches of the same, I have worn these three and twenty years, and have but one hole in them, which you may put your nose in.

NUT-CRACKER.

The celebrated Miss C——h, late Dutcheſs of Kingſton, complained to Lord Ch——d of the ill-nature of the town, and amongſt other inſtances, ſaid, that occaſion had been taken, from a late illneſs of hers, to ſpread a report that ſhe had been brought to bed of two children. His lordſhip adviſed her to be eaſy under ſuch circumſtances; adding, that for his part, he had long made it a rule not to believe more than half what the town ſaid.

Monſ. De Vergy, when in Scotland, hearing a woman calling out, *Freſh Butter*, drew his ſword, thinking ſhe called him *buggar*.

A man unluckily falling from the top of an high houſe to the ground, happened to light upon a man who was ſitting juſt under that place, whom he killed, but was not hurt himſelf; upon which, the ſon of the deceased immediately proſecutes him as a murderer, but the maſon defended himſelf in this manner—Friend, ſays he, if I have committed a crime I am willing to do penance for it—do you go up to the ſame place from whence I fell, and I will ſit upon the ſame ſpot your father did, then throw yourſelf down and kill me if you have a mind.

Shakeſpear told a friend of his, that man had nothing in this world but his poſſeſſions and his body, and that his poſſeſſions were torn to pieces by the lawyer, and his body by the phyſicians; for which reaſon, replies his friend, we find but few lawyers that have any ſuits, and few phyſicians that take phyſic.

A man whom they were whipping in the city of York, walked ſo very ſlow, that a certain inquiſitive perſon, drawing near to him, ſaid, Mend your pace, poor man, the ſooner to rid yourſelf of your ſhame and miſery; to whom the criminal replied, When you are whipped pray go what pace you pleaſe; as for me, I ſhall walk as I think proper.

A London rider going to Edinburgh, and perceiving it to grow late, asked a porter, whom he met in his way, if he thought he could get through the gate: the rider meant to ask him if he could get into the city before the gates were ſhut; but the porter taking it in another ſenſe, when ſeeing

B

him

him so very fat and thick, burst out a laughing, and cried, Why should you not get through, since a cart, loaded with hay, can very well make its way in.

Lord T——ple, who is more wealthy than witty, being at court, the queen asked him how his lady did: he answered her, that she was with child. The queen continuing to ask him when she would be brought to bed, he replied, Whenever your majesty pleases.

A certain gentleman being very angry with one of his neighbours, for some expressions which had been told him again, cried out, The devil take all the cuckolds, I wish they were in the Thames; upon which his wife answered, O dear, husband! how can you make such a wish, when you know you can't swim.

A good old woman being at the Sardinian Ambassador's chapel, took two wax tapers, and set one of them before the image of St. Michael, and the other, without thinking what she did, before the devil, which stood at his feet; the priest taking notice of it, began to say to her, Alas! good woman, what are you about? don't you perceive that him you offer a candle to is the devil: to whom the woman replied, like a woman as she was. No matter, my good Sir, 'tis good to have friends every where, in hell as well as in heaven, for we don't know where we may go.

A countryman desired a neighbour of his to lend him an ass, who told him that he had lent it to another, and that he was very sorry he had not asked him before. He had not done speaking when the ass began to bray. Oh, oh, says the peasant, dy'e hear? your ass says that 'tis not true you had lent him out; you are indeed a very obliging person. How, says the countryman, would you sooner give credit to my ass than myself?

Shakespear being asked the reason why people of the first rank generally gave alms to the poor blind, more than to those of philosophers, replied, there was a probability of their being blind, but never of their being philosophers.

A young

NUT-CRACKER.

11

A young maiden got down from the window of the house, and ran away with her lover, and being often reprimanded by her mistress, how she, who was a virgin, could be so very bold: I must tell you, madam, says she, that my love was so very hot and violent, that had I not got out at the window, we should all have been burnt in the house.

A Husbandman going to his master, told him the news of his wife's being brought to bed: And what as she got? replied the master, a girl, I warrant you. Better, Sir, replies the husbandman. Has she a boy, then? continues the master. Better still, replied the husbandman, for she's brought to bed of a dead female child.

Foote, the comedian, meeting a friend one day, who, seemingly, was in a great hurry, asked where he was going: I am going to Bury's lottery office, in Holborn, says he, to purchase a ticket. Pho, pho, replied Foote, what the devil! going to bury your money? give it to Hazard, and you may hang yourself as soon as you please afterwards.

King George the Second used to say, that to make the marriage state happy, it was necessary that the husband be deaf and the wife blind.

A fool begged his master to give him a very fine cap, telling him, he had dreamed that night that he had made him a present of it; but the gentleman, who had more wit than his jester, replied, Get you gone, I won't give it you, because 'tis not good to give credit to dreams.

A judge used to say, that it was fit that all thieves should be hanged; the young thief, because otherwise he would practise the trade of robbing; and the old one, because he had robbed enough.

Earl Ferrers going to cross a river, and imagining it to be very deep, bid his servant go before him; but he, to shew his politeness, replied, I never will be guilty of so much ill manners; pray, my lord, do you cross first.

A certain bill of rights' man, who had squandered away all his estate, being at an entertainment, one of the guests

said, the earth used to swallow up men, but this man has swallowed up the earth.

One reprimanded another, saying, that he talked like a fool: True, says he, but it is proper you should understand me.

A young man being violently in love with a virtuous and beautiful girl, and meeting one day with an opportunity of speaking to her, he asked her whether she would content him: the prudent and witty young woman replied, Yes, provided he would grant her one thing only; when being asked what that thing was, she replied, That which you have not, nor cannot have, and yet may give. The lover desired to know the meaning of the riddle, which she explained as follows—As you are a young man, you neither have, nor can have, a husband, and yet you may give me one by bestowing yourself upon me, and then I shall have what I wish for.

A shopkeeper selling some goods to one who said that he asked too much for them, and that he should not buy so dear of him as of another, because he was his friend, replied, Sir, we must gain something by our friends, for our enemies will never come to the shop.

A man that had lost an eye, having married a girl whom he supposed to be a virgin, was very much enraged not to find her so, and rebuked her in the severest terms; but she answered, Why would you have me perfect, when yourself has lost an eye: 'Tis from my enemies, replies the husband, that I have received that injury: And 'tis from my friends, says the girl, that I have received mine.

A great personage lately censured his brother very severely for his irregular course of life, and particularly on account of unbridled passion for intrigue. You see, says he, what a sum I have to pay for you; not sensible of the disgrace you bring on your family, and how unworthy it is not to follow our better example: the young buck, with his usual levity, turning round upon his heel, whistled, for he was fond of music, and then left the room, humming to himself, My mother did so before me.

A great

NUT-CRACKER.

23

A great personage going to visit Sir Joshua Reynolds, a very excellent painter, and observing that his children was very ugly, could not forbear observing, that he who drew such beautiful figures, should get such homely children: to whom Sir Joshua pleasantly replied, Don't be surprized at that, sir, because I make the figures in the day time, and the children in the night.

As surgeon Fordyce was dressing a poor man, whose eye had been struck with a stone, the patient asked him whether he should lose his eye: No, no, says Fordyce, I have it in my hand.

A bad painter, who could never sell any of his works, went into another country, and turned physician; one who knew him, passing that way, asked him what made him go in the habit of a physician, since he was a painter; he replied, I was desirous of professing an art where all the blunders I make may be covered with earth.

A gentleman seeing, from his window, Doctor Rock, who was going along the street, he, in order to ridicule him as an ignorant fellow, said to him, Where are you going, Mr. Farrier? Replied Rock, I am going to cure your worship.

A man who was blind of an eye, met, very early in the morning, a crook-backed man, to whom he said, Friend, you are loaded betimes: the crook-backed man replied, It must indeed be betimes, since you have got but one of your windows open.

As Justice Cox was bemoaning himself to another, who was a farmer, for the great scarcity of corn, saying, he believed that if it did not rain, all the beasts would die: he replied to him, Heavens preserve your worship!

A citizen of London treating about a marriage with a young woman in the country, at last refused her, saying, that she was as yet too green: upon which her father, rising up in a passion, cried out, She is riper than you imagine, for she has already had three children by the parish clerk.

Lady

Lady G——r, who was subject to melancholy fits, asking her physician, Dr. Hunter's opinion, whether frogs, which she had often used to eat, were of a melancholy quality: No, madam, says the doctor, because wherever they inhabit, they are heard to sing at all hours,

The noted Doctors Rock and Franks on a time being very angry with each other, Rock saying to him, Hold your tongue, you scoundrel! don't I know that your father was a bricklayer? Franks immediately replied, No one could have told you that but your own father, who carried the stone and lime to mine.

A patriotic gentleman standing at the window of his house, with his wife, whom he had married a few days before, and seeing a beautiful young woman pass along, he said to his wife, My dear soul, I'll make you laugh; You must know that I had several times to do with that girl before she was married, but she was so silly as to go and tell her mother of it: his wife replied, O, the silly brainless wretch! I, in the like manner, had to do an hundred times with our coachman and footman, and never said a word of it to my mother.

A gentleman reading the anecdote which lately appeared relative to the late Mr. Whitfield's using the phrase, That he was beating up for volunteers for the Lord, observed, That having raised as many recruits as he could, he is now gone to join his regiment.

A gentlewoman, who thought her servants cheated her when they went to Billingsgate to buy fish, was resolved to go thither herself; and asking the price of some fish, which she thought too dear, she bid the fish-woman about half what she asked: Lord, madam, said the woman I must have stole it to sell it at that price, but you shall have it if you will tell me what you do to make your hands so white: Nothing, good woman, answered the lady, but wear dog-skin gloves: D——n you for a lying b——h, replied the other, my husband has wore dog-skin breeches these ten years, and his a——se is as brown as a nutmeg.

A gentleman happening to make water against a house, did not see two young ladies looking out of a window close by,

NUT-CRACKER.

13

by, till he heard them giggling, when looking towards them, he asked what made them so merry: O Lord! said one of them, a very little thing will make us laugh.

An Englishman was very angry with a Scotchman, who he said had abused him, and called him Base-born. Faith, Sir, you are quite mistaken, quoth Sawney, for I said you was a true Englishman.

A gentleman said of a young wench, who constantly plied about the Temple, that if she had as much law in her head as she had in her tail, she would be one of the most able counsel in England.

A gentleman came to a widow's, and she presented him with a cup of small beer; so coming a week afterwards, she salutes him with another cup of the same beer, saying, Sir, I dare not recommend the beer to you, for indeed it is dead: to which he replied, That may very well be, for it was very weak when I was here last.

A gentlewoman loved a doctor of physic, and to enjoy him, fergned herself sick; the doctor being sent for in all haste, went up and staid with her an hour; when he came down, her husband asked him how she did: O, say, the doctor, she has had two such extreme fits, that had you seen one of them it would have made your heart ach.

One Mr. Mann, master of the ship called the Moon, used to be very familiar with a gentlewoman, and her husband taxed her with another gentleman; she swore she knew him no more than she did the man in the moon.

A scholar blowing his fire, the nose of his bellows dropped off; says he, I see it's cold weather, for the nose of the bellows drops.

King Charles the Second and the Duke of Ormond discoursing of the prettiest women of several countries, says the king to the duke, My lord, you have pretty women in Ireland, but they have great legs: O, that's nothing, please you, my leige, lay them aside and search for other beauties.

A young

A young lady of pretty high spirits, who was just entering into the marriage state, told her gallant that she could never bring herself to say obey, and was resolved she would not. When the ceremony was performing, and she was to repeat that word, she was for mincing the matter, and cried, Honour and bey: Nay, madam, said the parson, you must say obey; I cannot say you are married if you do not speak the words as the office directs; but still she would only say as she had done, and the parson again reproving her, Let her alone, doctor, said her husband, let her only say bey, if she has a mind to it now, and I'll make her cry O at night.

Zelim, the first of the Ottoman emperors that shaved his beard, his predecessors having always worn it long, being asked by one of his Bashaws, why he altered the custom of his predecessors, answered, Because you Bashaws shall not lead me by the beard as you did them.

Sir Robert Satton being with the late King of Prussia, at a review of his tall grenadiers, his majesty asked him if he could say an equal number of Englishmen could beat them: No, Sire, answered Sir Robert, I won't pretend to say that, but I believe half the number would try.

One said to his friend, I hear your wife is quick already: Yes, says he, a pox on her, she is very nimble; I have had her but a month, and she is ready to lie down.

One parting a fray was cut in the skull: Sir, said the surgeon, one may see your brains: Nay, then I'll be hanged, said he, if I had any brains I never would have parted their fighting.

A young lady, with a good fortune, bestowed herself upon a wild young fellow: Well, says the old lady, her aunt, for all you was so eager to have him, you will have your belly full of him in a little time, I'll warrant you.

A person having two very ungenerous sons, the one robbed him of his money, and the other of his good; his neighbours coming to condole with him, told him he might sue the county, for he had been robbed between son and son.

A fellow hearing one say, according to the old proverb, that three women make a market with their chaffing. Nay, then, said he, add my wife to them, and then they'll make a fair.

A knavish attorney asked a worthy gentleman what was honesty? he replied, What is that to you? meddle with those things that concern you.

A gentleman remarking to his friend the cheerfulness of some convicts for transportation, as they were going to be put on board, said; he thought they seemed to be very happy; one of them over-hearing him, replied, Aye, aye, make, you see we are here happy enough, but if you was to go along with us, you would be quite transported.

A certain nobleman, when Mrs. Rogers, the actress, was young and handsome, used to dangle after her, and one night being behind the scenes, standing with his arms folded in the posture of a desponding lover, asked her, with a sigh, what was a cure for love? Your lordship, said she, is the best in the world.

As a gentleman was remarking, in company, of the Scotch in general being excellent soldiers, one of the company replied, I am not in the least surprised at it, for as soon as they are born they handle their arms.

A young woman came to a lady to be hired, and the lady told her she was no maid; Yes, indeed, madam, says she, but I am. How can that be, replied the lady, when, to my knowledge, you have had a child? Well, madam, says she, it was but a very little one, and do you make such a matter of that.

A man blaming his sweetheart, telling her she was false to him, she, to clear herself, used many imprecations, bidding him, if it was so, to mark her end. Nay, after that, said he, I shall not so much mark your end as I shall your middle.

Two widows sitting by the fire, were chattering about their dead husbands, and one said, Let us have a candle, for my

**Meaning the Itch.*

poor husband loved light; God send him light everlasting; and, said the other, My husband loved fire; I wish him fire everlasting.

Socrates was asked why he endured his wife's brawling; says he, Why do you suffer your geese to cackle? Because they lay eggs, said the person. Well, says he, and my wife brings me children.

Married women, says Tom Brown, usually shew all their modesty the first day, as married men shew all their love the first night.

A lady seeing a gentleman dance, found fault with him, and said he straddled too much: Oh, madam! replied he, if you had that between your legs that I have, you'd straddle a great deal more.

A young woman, being on Tower-hill to see the fire-works on his majesty's birth-day, was complaining of her shortness; a young man offered her a stand on his shoulders. Then, says she, you cannot see the fire-works. True, said he, but I shall see the water-works.

A huge Welsh mason's labourer, and a sawney, were disputing one day, with great warmth, upon the excellence of their country: the Welchman, in proof that his surpassed all others, said, All the heroes and philosophers came out of his country. That is true, said sawney, for there is not one left in it.

A wench coming to confession, confessed abundance of sins; but the chief was, lying with men: Well, says the friar, whoredom is a thing does much displease God: I am sorry for that, said she, for I am sure it pleased me.

Doctor Becket being out a shooting one whole morning without killing any thing, his servant begged leave to go over to the next field, for he was sure there were some birds there. And, said the man, if there are, I'll doctor them: Doctor them! says the master, what do you mean by that? Will you kill them, sir.

A forward young girl having been debauched, her father applied to counsel, to know whether an action would not lie between his daughter and her gallant: Go home, honest man, replied the barrister, I find there has been already too much action between them.

A linen draper being asked, by a woman, how much would be sufficient to make a shift, told her, if she was a reasonable woman, she might make a shift with one yard.

A gentleman saying, one day at table, that he could not endure a breast of mutton, You said so the other day, cried another, of a breast of veal: Very true, answered the first, I do not love the breast of any but of a woman, and that goes against my stomach.

A country girl, who had a sweetheart of the name of Roger, was asking him, one day, to do something for her. Come, will you, Roger? the arch rogue immediately inverts her meaning, by saying, If you will lie down I will roger.

The patriotic Mr. Morris, meeting with a gentlewoman of his acquaintance very late one evening, in a sequestered part of Vauxhall Gardens, asked her what she came there for: To look for something, asked the gentlewoman: I believe so, madam, replied he, but faith I would not for the king's dominions have lost what you are searching for.

An honest Jack Tar being at a quaker's meeting, heard the friend that was holding forth, speak with great emotion against the ill consequence of giving the lie in conversation, and therefore he advised; when a man was telling a tale that was not consistent with truth or probability, to cry, Twang, which would not irritate passion as the lie would. Afterwards digressing into the story of the great miracle of five thousand being fed with five loaves of bread, &c. he told them that they were not such loaves as are used now, but were as big as a mountain; at the hearing of which, the Tar uttered, with a loud voice, Twang: What, says the quaker, do'st thou think I lie, friend? No, says Jack, but I am thinking how big the ovens were that baked them.

Parson Horne said to a hare-brained fellow, who threw stones at a gibbet, Well, I see thou wilt hit the mark at last.

Sirrah, says Justice Fielding to one brought before him, you are an arrant knave: says he, Just as your worship spoke, the clock struck two.

Lord B—it—reassured a gentlewoman that he would do any thing to serve her: If I was poor and necessitous, said the gentlewoman, I make no doubt but you will express yourself in a different manner. Indeed, madam, I would not, replies his lordship, for if you was naked I would cover you.

A lady being asked how she liked a gentleman's singing, who had a very stinking breath, The words are good, said she, but the air is intolerable.

An old gentleman asking a young rake, whose assiduities with his daughter gave him much uneasiness, upon what foot he came to see his daughter, Upon the bed's foot, replied the rake.

Shakespear said of physicians, that earth was to them like charity, for it covered a multitude of their sins.

A master telling his servant that he owed him a beating a great while, Take notice, said the man, I never asked you for it.

A gentleman seeing an old gentlewoman youthfully dressed, especially from her waist downwards, her petticoats being flounced and embroidered, said it was a pity to see so much finery in new hooping an old cask.

A gentleman, upon seeing hung at a lady's watch, the picture of her deceased husband, who, it was believed, hastened his end by intemperance in connubial joy, said, it was barbarous in her to hang him in chains so near the place of execution.

The celebrated Thompson going up the water, in a boat, one of the watermen told him, as they passed by Peterborough House, at Milbank, that house had sunk a story. No, friend, says he, I believe it is a story raised,

It was asked in company, when Lord C——n was present, whether the piers of Westminster Bridge were to be of wood or stone. Oh! says his lordship, of stone, to be sure; for we have too many wooden piers already.

A drunken fellow having made away with all his goods, except his feather-bed, was at length obliged to part with it also, for which being reprov'd by some friends, Pshaw, says he, I am very well, thank God, and why should I keep my bed?

Joe Miller seeing one sitting in a necessary house, with a book in his hand, reading it very attentively, said, he was sorry his memory was so bad, that he could not sh—e without a book.

Lord Mansfield being willing to save a man that had stole a watch, desired the jury to value it at ten-pence; upon which the prosecutor cries out, Ten-pence, my lord! why, the very fashion of it cost me five pounds. Oh! says his lordship, we must not hang a man for fashion sake.

A gentleman riding over Salisbury Plain when it rained very hard, set up a gallop, and pass'd by another whose horse stood still; a little surprized at this sight, he asked the reason of it. Zounds! says the other, who the devil but a fool would ride in all this wet.

A virtuous lady being once in a musing vein, sat with her legs pretty wide; her husband said, Sweetheart, your cabinet stands open: Say you so? says she; why don't you lock it then? for I am sure none keeps the key but yourself.

A certain gentlewoman, finding her husband somewhat too familiar with her chambermaid, turned her away, saying, Hussey, I have no occasion for such fluts as you; I hired you to do your own business, not mine.

One of the troublesome gentry, called dinner hunters, one day invited himself to dine with Alderman W——ks; the dinner consisted of some fish, and a fine piece of roast beef; the gentleman helped himself about half a dozen times, and approved highly of the alderman's taste, in preferring the roast beef of old England to those slimsey kickshaws so much in fashion;

fashion; adding, Here's cut and come again: Sir, says the alderman, you may cut, but d—n me if ever you come again.

Ben Johnson riding once upon a large lean horse, a person that met him asked what a yard of his horse was worth; with that he bids his man alight and lift up his horse's tail, and then he answered, Enter into the shop and they within will tell you.

An Irish fortune hunter, at Bath, telling Mr. Smollet that he had got an excellent phaton, on the new plan; I am rather of opinion, says our celebrated author, that you have got it on the old plan; for I suppose you never intend to pay for it.

A good-humoured wife abusing her husband on his mercenary disposition, told him, that if she was dead he would marry the devil's eldest daughter, if he could get any thing by it. True, replied the husband; but the worst of it is, one cannot marry two sisters.

A clergyman, who was inclined to write notes on Shakespear's plays, carried a specimen of his performance to a certain actor, and desired his opinion. Sir, says the player, I wonder people won't mind their own affairs; you may spoil your own Bible, if you please, but pray let ours alone.

Two free-thinking authors, said a certain bookseller, when I was a little low in the world, assured me, if I would print their works they would set me up; and indeed they were as good as their word; for in six weeks after I published the first pamphlet they sent me, I was set up, but it was on the pillory.

Lord Falkland, the author of the play called the Marriage Night, was chosen very young to sit in parliament, and when he was first elected, some of the members opposed his admission, urging, that he had not sown his wild oats: Then replied he, it will be the best way to sow them in the house, where there are so many geese to pick them up.

THE BRITISH MUSE;

CONTAINING

A choice Collection of Tales, Epigrams, Fables,
Epistles, &c. &c.

SMALL PRINT: A TALE.

I Knew a judge, alas the day!
Death took the honest man away:
He was my true, my steady friend,
And so continued to the end;
Tho' old, he had a deal of wit,
Whole days he would together sit,
Together sup, together dine,
Sometimes drink arac, sometimes wine:
Pen, ink, and paper, still were by,
For oft we did the rhyming try;
Our lines were from ill-nature free,
Which made us never disagree.

One day, when weary'd on the bench,
He to a tavern went to quench
His raging thirst; I met him there;
And, while they did the bowl prepare,
I from my pocket gravely drew
A poem, was entirely new:
On this he took his glasses out,
And straightway clapp'd them 'cross his snout:
But thought it wou'd not be amiss,
E're he began to go to p——.

The careless waiter had forgot
To set down a clean chamber pot,
So to the door the honest judge
Did, without once complaining, trudge;
But thoughtless (as I suppose)
Still kept the glasses on his nose.

While

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY

While thus employ'd, a maid came by,
Who did his dwarfish member spy;
And much offended with the sight,
Cry'd out, Your honour's in the right;
With spectacles perhaps you'll see
What otherwise would hidden be:
For me, I vow to God, I'd squint;
If I were put to read such print.

EPIGRAM.

SAYS John Wilkes to a lady, pray name, if you can,
Of all your acquaintance, the handsomest man:
The lady replied, if you'd have me speak true,
He's the handsomest man that's the most unlike you.

Pinned to a Sheet, in which a Woman stood to do Penance in
the Church.

HERE stand I, for whores as great
To cast a scornful eye on;
Should each whore here be deem'd a sinner,
You'd soon have none to lie on.

On a Window in a Coffee-house.

IF kisses were the only joys in bed,
The women would with one another wed.

EPI T A P H.

On the late Lady Vane.

HERE lies a lady, who, if not bely'd,
Took wise St. Paul's advice, and all things try'd;
Nor stopp'd she here, but follow'd through the rest,
And always stuck to the largest as the best.

EPI T A P H.

NUT-CRACKER.

25

EPI T A P H.

On Mary Fletcher.

UNDERNEATH this stone lies one,
Who many times I've ~~had~~ upon;
I've kissed her sitting, standing, lying,
When she rises have at her flying.

S O N G.

AS Polly lay within my arms,
Her bosom half revealed,
I strove to view those hidden charms
Her modesty conceal'd.

Forbear, she cry'd, not quite so free,
Your rudeness I detest;
Content yourself with what you see,
Let fancy paint the rest.

My love, said I, no charms are there
For fancy left t'explore;
I've pictur'd all that's heavenly fair,
And what can mortals more?

Again I caught her in my arms,
Her eagerly caress'd;
While I, inspir'd by Polly's charms,
Fast held her to my breast.

Since fancy then can't further go,
Let real bliss succeed;
Indulge my ardent wish to know
The joys of love indeed.

EPIGRAM.

YOU say you nothing owe, and so I say;
He only owes who something hath to pay.

A N O T H E R.

On the Choice of a Wife.

YOU ask me, dear friend, what lass I'd enjoy,
 I would have one that's neither too common nor coy;
 A medium is best, that gives us no pain,
 By too much indulgence, or too much disdain.

A N O T H E R.

YOU'RE fine, and ridicule my thread-bare gown,
 Thread-bare indeed it is—but 'tis my own.

P O E T R Y.

SAYS Sir John to my lady, as together they sat,
 My dear shall we sup first, or do, you know what?
 With an innocent smile, replied the good lady,
 Sir John, what you please—but supper's not ready.

On a Maid meeting with a Misfortune in Greenwich Park.

WHILST Sylvia, dress'd in Sunday's cloaths,
 Attracts the eyes of Greenwich beaux,
 Within the Park's delightful grove,
 Which oft has been the scene of love,
 Beneath her coats, a gaudy thing
 Flutter'd awhile, then fix'd a ring:
 The nymph complain'd she was not well,
 And quickly found the parts to swell.
 Yet this is but of little moment,
 The danger lay in what might come on't:
 From prudes, who tell it thro' the town,
 And add much fiction of their own;
 From hence, without the least occasion,
 The fair may lose their reputation:
 Is therefore, anxious of her fame,
 Will tell the truth, & send to shame,
 Who make such pother with a jest,
 A silly wasp mistook her nest,

CONUNDRUMS.

- 1 **W**HY is Britain like a child?
Because every rattle amuses and diverts it.
- 2 Why is a publican like a musician?
Because his works are in score.
- 3 Why is marriage like a curtain?
Because it serves for a blind.
- 4 Why are men like timber?
Because they often prop a gate.
- 5 Who was the first man that bore arms?
Adam.
- 6 What is that which God never made, and commanded not to be made, and yet was made, and has a soul to be saved?
A cuckold.
- 7 Why is a kept mistress like a rudder?
Because she has her rake.
- 8 Why are Rochester's works like a chimney sweeper?
Because they are smutty.
- 9 Why are young girls like an old ship?
Because they want breaking up.
- 10 Which is the wonderful plant?
That which grows in the hand.
- 11 Why is Lady L——— easily penetrated?
Because she is too open.
- 12 Where should a woman clap her hands if a man should enter the room when she's quite naked?
On the man's eyes.
- 13 What does a woman delight to see?
A yard at her fore door.
- 14 Why is a boy, on Shrove Tuesday, like a pretty girl?
Because he no sooner sets up a cock but he knocks him down.
- 15 When is a girl's most taking motion?
When she is pricked forward.
- 16 Why is swearing like an old coat?
Because 'tis a bad habit.
- 17 Why is a grave digger like a waterman?
Because he handles skulls.

18 Why is the second horse in a race like the main-mast of a ship?

Because he is next the fore-most.

19 Why is the Sun Fire Office like an impudent fellow?

Because it deals in assurance.

20 Who are women like the deepest-part of the sea?

Because they are not easily fathomed.

21 When has a goose the most feathers on her?

When the gander is upon her.

22 Why is a man in a passion like a lady's smock?

Because he is ruffled.

23 Why is a dead man proud?

Because he is stiff.

24 Why is a bunch of keys like a head of hair?

Because it has locks belonging to it.

25 Why is a whore like a comet?

Because she has a fiery tale.

26 Why is a woman with child like a gentleman?

Because she shews her breeding.

27 Why are sweethearts like the sea?

Because they wave.

28 Why is a sparrow like a man with one leg?

Because it hops.

29 Why is a skittish young horse like Jeany Fordery?

Because he is loath to be mounted.

30 Why is an unbound book like a lady in bed?

Because it is in sheets, ready to be stitched.

31 Why are n pieces of villainy like a candle?

Because they are brought to light.

32 Why is a fine woman like a diamond?

Because she is a jewel.

33 Why is a scolding wife like the devil?

Because she torments.

34 What kind of water is most deceitful?

Woman's tears.

35 By what measure do women like to trade?

The yard.

36 What creatures bear best?

Asses and women.

37 Why are women the weaker vessels?

Because they are the soonest cracked.

38 What kind of jointers do women like best?

Body to body.

39 What

NUT-CRACKER.

49

- 39 What kind of sickness are most women subject to?
The falling.
- 40 Why are whores like rogues?
Because they are common.
- 41 Why is a bottle full of brandy like a haunted house?
Because it is full of spirits.
- 42 Why is a rope like a pistol?
Because it often brings men to their end.
- 43 Why is the gallows the last refuge of a condemned man?
Because he has nothing else to depend upon.
- 44 Why is a condemned malefactor like a cannon?
Because he is cast.
- 45 Why is a drawn tooth like a thing forgot?
Because it's out of the head.
- 46 Why are some printers and booksellers like sailors?
Because they commit piracy.
- 47 Why is a sash window like a woman in labour?
Because it is full of pains.
- 48 Why is an old man's wife like a hot muffin?
Because she wants to be well butter'd.
- 49 Why is a whore like an exciseman's book?
Because she is often entered.
- 50 Why is an organ like the New River head?
Because it is full of pipes.
- 51 Why is a fine girl like an highwayman?
Because she makes a man stand.
- 52 Why are weak eyes like meat nicely dress'd?
Because they are full of gravy.
- 53 Why is a good cart horse like a good painter?
Because he draws well.
- 54 What is the best trade for men to learn?
To die well.
- 55 What trade is the most common in London?
Shift-makers, or the old trade of basket-making.
- 56 Why is a drunken inan like a pack-horse?
Because he has got his load.
- 57 Why are thieves impertinent?
Because they meddle with that which does not concern them.
- 58 Why is a sharper like a pack of cards?
Because he thuffles.

TOASTS

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY

TOASTS and SENTIMENTS.

MAY poverty be a day's march behind us.

He that deceives his friend may he die in a horse's night cap.

May the honest man never know distress.

The wooden walls of Old England.

May we never want a friend nor a bottle to give him.

The pipkin that will stretch without breaking.

May our passions be slaves to us, not we to our passions.

The cruel cobbler;

Run his all into his wife's Belly, knocked out his foreman's
brains, and hung his two apprentices at the door.

Here's to the slut slip shod and the slip shod slut.

Liberty, property, and no excise.

May love and reason be friends, and beauty and prudence
marry.

May the miser grow poor and the benevolent rich.

May trade increase and faction cease.

The cormorant; bites the head and eats the brains.

Girls fair, fond and frisky.

May

NUT-CRACKER.

31

May the cushion of life be thump'd with the club of vigour.

May all honest souls find a friend in need.

Roast meat for the speaking mouth and raw for the dumb,

May the men leave roving and the women deceit.

To Polly Pout and Jacky Snout.

May every British officer possess Wolfe's conduct and courage,
but not meet with his fate.

May we never want vigour when we come to a shift.

May the joys of the fair give pleasure to the heart.

May our pleasures be boundless while we have time to enjoy
them.

Miller's music; opening the sluice and grinding of the stones.

The industrious maid, that scours the stones and keeps the
yard clean.

The bookseller's wife, that stitches best in streets.

An honest soul, a pretty maid, a convenient place, with a
cod's head in the middle.

The linen manufactory; smock in one hand and yard in the
other.

The female reaper, that never leaves a handful standing.

The lamb-like lass, that wags her tail when she receives the
nipple.

The venison feast; Four haunches well spitted.

The Seville orange; Rough, agreeable, and juicy.

The female butcher, that extracts the marrow without hurt-
ing the bone.

The

The Indian way of fighting; Laying upon our bellies and
firing through the bushes.

The love of liberty and liberty in love.

May every honest man have his right and every rogue a hal-
ter.

The shrub that flowers monthly and is in season all the year.

Success to the lover, honour to the brave,
Health to the sick, and freedom to the slave,

The cock, that treads his hen,
Flutters his wings and treads again,

Girls lecherous, kind and willing.

Success to the falling woman and the standing man.

The fountain in Hare Court.

General Splitbeard and his two aid-de-camps,

The bush under the hill,

May we be slaves to nothing but our duty and friends to no
thing but merit.

To the steady friends of Britain.

May he that made the devil take us all,

The first game ever played at,

F I N I S